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wild sheep and his aim is merely to give the information from the standpoint of a hunter and a naturalist; but still, by photographs and reports of daily experiences in climbing and camping, a fair appreciation of the topography and the climate of the upper Yukon is gained. ROBERT M. BROWN.

**A Motor Tour Through Canada.** By Thomas W. Wilby. xviii and 290 pp. Ills., index. John Lane Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5½.

Mr. Wilby gives us the panoramic view of Canada as seen from the tonneau of a motor car on its journey from Halifax to Victoria. In easy style, largely abounding in conversations with persons whom he met on his tour, he relates an agreeable story of his experiences. Among those stand out prominently his impressions of the Northwest Mounted Police and their prisoners. The half-tone reproductions add interest to his tale. DAVID H. BUELL.

#### CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

**La Nouvelle Voie Maritime: Le Canal de Panama.** Par Daniel Bellet. 330 pp. Map, ills. Series: Bibliothèque des Amis de la Marine. E. Guilmoto, Paris, 1913. Fr. 5. 8 x 5.

Mr. Bellet's book on the Panama Canal will make its appeal, perhaps, to all except Americans. In it he never loses sight of the fact that the French should be credited with the Canal's first inception, and much space is given to the preliminary French work. A chapter on sanitation gives a very good description, including statistics, of the splendid work of Colonel Gorgas on "cleaning up" the Canal, showing the wonderful decrease in the mortality on the Zone from 47 to 19 per 1,000 in three years.

Even though the Canal be completed, grave difficulties may arise and give constant apprehension, as, for example, the landslides and, even more, the chemical composition of the underlying rocks of the Gatun Dam, which, geologists suggest, may in time become soft through saturation.

The work would be more acceptable if Mr. Bellet had not introduced so much bitterness at the success which the "Yankees" (so called throughout the book) achieved, where the French so woefully failed. A. C. B.

**Twentieth Century Jamaica.** By H. G. de Lisser. 208 pp. Ills. The Jamaica Times, Ltd., Kingston, 1913. 8 x 5½.

Will Jamaica be absorbed by the United States or Canada or remain the possession of England? Mr. de Lisser considers this problem in detail. He next takes up the history of the island, describes the cities, towns and country; the life of the people, their beliefs, customs, religions, politics, industries and commerce. The book is well worth reading.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

**The Southland of North America.** By G. P. Putnam. xiv and 425 pp. Map, ills. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. \$2.50. 8 x 5½.

A series of entertaining sketches conveying vivid impressions of scenic wonders and easy-going customs. The author shows remarkable comprehension of the Latin-American turn of mind. His comments on the contrasting business methods adopted by Europeans and Americans deserve attention. Of special interest are the accounts of his meetings with his countrymen. The book will be read with especial pleasure by all who have traveled in Central America. LEON DOMINIAN.

#### SOUTH AMERICA

**The South American Tour.** By Annie S. Peck. 398 pp. Map, ills., index. George H. Doran Co., New York, 1913. \$2.50. 8½ x 5½.

In the years during which the Panama Canal has been nearing completion the South American tour has been coming into its own. Miss Peck's book is designed to help the South American tourist on his way. Railroad and steamship lines are catalogued, the principal hotels and their prices are listed, the points of interest are indicated, and useful historical information

is supplied. The account of the Harvard Observatory, near Arequipa, and its work is noteworthy; also the account of the trip in the new tunnel through the Andes from Argentina to Chile. Director General John Barrett of the Pan American Union writes an appreciative preface. DAVID H. BUEL.

**Venezuela.** By Leonard V. Dalton. 320 pp. Map, ills., index. T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1912. 9 x 6.

Venezuela is known among us as the land of coffee and asphalt, of Bolivar and Castro, upon the occasion of whose boundary dispute with Great Britain President Cleveland pronounced his strong reassertion of the Monroe Doctrine. In the 241 pages of his book the author of this work gives a clear but brief account of all these matters. The chapters on the history of the country, political, commercial and industrial, are more extended than those dealing with the geography, geology, botany, zoology and ethnology. His account of education in Venezuela is quite brief, perhaps because education itself is not much developed there. The illustrations are good half-tones of the scenery, public buildings and monuments of the country. A map in black and white displays the mountains, rivers, international and state boundaries, the capitals, railroads and roads of Venezuela. The appendices record the figures for population, trade, meteorology, vital statistics, and finance. The bibliography quotes 411 works on Venezuela. The final chapter on the future of the country is timely. DAVID H. BUEL.

#### AFRICA

**The Agricultural and Forest Products of British West Africa.**

By Gerald C. Dudgeon. Imperial Inst. Handbooks. x and 170 pp. Maps, ills., index. John Murray, London, 1911. 5s. 9 x 5½.

A careful account of the vegetable commercial resources of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Ashanti, Northern Territories, Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria.

**The Guide to South and East Africa** for the use of Tourists, Sportsmen, Invalids and Settlers. Edited annually by A. Samler Brown and G. Gordon Brown. liv and 695 pp. Maps, ills. Union-Castle Mail SS. Co., Ltd., London, 1913.

This book improves with every issue. An enormous amount of accurate and up-to-date information is made readily accessible by a good index. The most important maps, by George Philip & Son, have the symbolism used by the best map-makers of Germany and are fine specimens of scientific map generalization. For the vast territory covered this book is one of the best reference sources.

**Botanical Features of the Algerian Sahara.** By William Austin Cannon. vi and 81 pp. Map, ills. Carnegie Inst., Washington, D. C., 1913. \$2.50 10 x 7.

The principal object of this entertaining volume is to add to the breadth of the phytogeographic studies now prosecuted at the desert laboratory of the Carnegie Institution. To geographers the great value of these researches is that they serve to establish upon an observational basis the problems of desiccation in their relation to habitability in past epochs. No little study has been devoted of late to the questions of climatic variation in reference to the very extensive remains of former habitation of the greater deserts. Sir Aurel Stein, Sven Hedin and Prof. Ellsworth Huntington have furnished data covering the deserts of inner Asia, Prof. Huntington has proposed a theory of desiccation. Mr. Cannon in this careful paper reads the lesson of the plants and makes plain the significance of the line of equilibrium, of balanced poise between the aeolian waste of sand and the plant growth of the arid region. In the end these two forces tend to establish permanence, but in the episodes there is an unevenness in the action of the forces, the vegetal force being slow and sure to the very limit of its possibility, the aeolian marked by sudden and